

## STATE INMATE AT WILKINSON COUNTY PRISON DIES

JACKSON - State corrections officials are investigating the death of an inmate at the Wilkinson County Correctional Facility in Woodville today.

Offender Eric Heinz, 33 was pronounced dead at the prison shortly before noon after being found unresponsive on the floor of his cell. He had suffered serious injuries during an alleged fight with his cellmate, according to a preliminary investigation.

"The Mississippi Department of Corrections' policy is to pursue the harshest penalties available in instances such as this incident," Interim Corrections Commissioner Pelicia Hall said. "I spoke to District Attorney Ronnie Harper earlier today and asked him to pursue the death penalty, if it is legally available upon the conclusion of our investigation."

Heinz, #L1305, was serving a total of 20 years for armed robbery and burglary/larceny of an unoccupied dwelling from Lowndes and Monroe counties. He had been in prison since June 24, 2002.

An autopsy to determine the cause of death is pending.

No charges have been filed.

The name of the cellmate is not being released at this time.